

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN FLEMING AND FAMILY

#### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2017*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. John Fleming, his wife Suzanne, and children John and Andrew, who all tragically died in a plane crash over Lake Erie last December.

John was born December 30, 1970 in Youngstown, Ohio. His wife Suzanne was born September 22, 1970 in Youngstown as well. Both John and Suzanne were 1989 graduates of Boardman High School and high school sweethearts. John graduated magna cum laude from Wake Forest University in 1993 as a CPA and member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity. Suzanne graduated from Youngstown State University with a Bachelor's Degree in social work. They were seventeen year residents of Columbus.

John worked for almost 30 years for the Superior Beverage Group in Columbus and the beverage distribution industry. He was incredibly successful, rising to President and Chief Executive Officer. In addition to his influential leadership in his career, he was a leader in his community. He actively volunteered at nearby charities, and was a yearly supporter of the Dublin Irish Festival. Above all, he was known for being a family man.

His wife Suzanne was a devoted mother and passionate supporter of Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the leading funder of type 1 diabetes research. Their oldest son John was a sophomore at Oletangy Liberty High School where he excelled academically and was an Ohio sports enthusiast. His younger brother Andrew attended the Ohio State School for the Blind in Columbus. Like his brother, he too was an avid supporter of sports, and he also participated in Special Olympics. This family will be greatly missed by their family, friends, colleagues, and their community.

I extend my condolences to their family and friends. These wonderful people will be dearly missed.

### REMEMBERING JUSTICE "JAY" SMYTH, III

#### HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2017*

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of Mr. Justice "Jay" Smyth, III, who passed away on February 10, 2017 at the age of 62. Jay was a loving father, son, brother, uncle, and husband. To me, he was a dear classmate, colleague, and friend for more than forty years.

Jay attended both undergraduate and law school at the University of Alabama, where he

was involved in the Student Government Association and Theta Chi Fraternity. During his time in school, he was inducted into numerous honor societies such as JASONS Senior Men's Honorary and Delta Theta Phi Legal Honorary.

After graduating from law school in 1980, Jay practiced law in Montgomery, Alabama for nineteen years before moving to Tuscaloosa. Jay was a skilled and thoughtful lawyer who earned tremendous respect from his colleagues. As a true testament to his personality and legal knowledge, Jay was also beloved by his clients; an anomaly for most in the legal community.

Jay was a skilled writer who excelled at telling stories and always took great interest in politics and history. He loved spending time outdoors and grilling out at home. He was a dedicated fan of the Alabama Crimson Tide and greatly enjoyed attending games with his family. Jay was delighted in spending time with his wife and children, whom he loved dearly. Most importantly, he was steadfast in his faith to God and served as a pillar of Christ in his family and his community.

So, to his wife, Rushan, and sons, Justice and Jeff, I want to extend my deepest sympathies. May you take comfort in the warm memories of Jay and the lasting impact he had on so many.

### TRIBUTE TO THE BURBANK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2017*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to the Burbank Unified School District as it celebrates its Ninetieth Anniversary.

In 1927, the Burbank Union High School District (BUSD) and the Elementary City School District unified to become the Burbank City School District, which served approximately 1,000 students. The name later changed to Burbank Unified School District to reflect state educational standards.

Today, BUSD's total enrollment is approximately 15,000 students, who attend grades K–12 at three high schools, three middle schools, and eleven elementary schools. The District also has an Alternative Education Program, an Adult Education Program which serves more than 5,000 students, and numerous district child care centers serving preschool or school age children.

The Burbank Unified School District's mission statement reflects its purpose by building partnerships with parents, families, students, and the community and promises the effective use of all available resources to create, provide, and support quality instructional programs, services, and environments. The District strives to ensure that every student develops the skills, knowledge, attitude, and behavior

in order to be a responsible, productive citizen and lifelong learner in a diverse and changing global society.

BUSD is proud to have had seven of its elementary schools named as 2016 Gold Ribbon recipients as well as all three of its middle schools and its comprehensive high schools recognized as California Distinguished Schools. Five elementary schools have earned the distinction of being named 2016 Academic Achievement Award winning schools and four are designated as having Exemplary Arts programs. In addition, the District's continuation high school, Monterey High, has been selected as a state model school, and the Burbank Adult School has been honored as a Program of Excellence by the State of California.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring the Burbank Unified School District upon the celebration of its Ninetieth Anniversary. The entire community joins me in thanking the past and current School Board Members, Superintendents, Teachers, Administrators and Support Staff of Burbank Unified School District for the outstanding educational opportunities they have provided for the youth of California's 28th Congressional District.

### WESTERN NEW YORK COMMUNITY UNITY

#### HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2017*

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate people in my district coming together to take a stand against bigotry, racism, and acts of hate. On March 7, 2017, members of the Muslim Public Affairs Council met with members of the Jewish community at the Jewish Community Center in Getzville, NY. Both groups sat down together to take a stand against recent threats towards the Jewish community in Western New York.

This act of solidarity is an example of a community coming together despite their different backgrounds and beliefs. This type of collaboration in the face of hate is a model for the rest of the country.

During my recent meeting with the Muslim Public Affairs Council, we discussed the importance of uniting behind our shared American values, such as inclusivity and tolerance. The recent demonstration of unity by members of the Jewish community and the Muslim community demonstrates that despite any differences, we are all Americans and must join together in condemning hateful acts in our community.

For their demonstrated leadership, I commemorate the groups and individuals working to bring unity to Western New York.

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